SouthCambs Magazine

www.scambs.gov.uk

Summer 2025

Our new and improved website
Page 10

Staying independent at home
Page 17

Support local traders and events this summer
Page 41

WIN

A three-month golf membership at Girton Golf Club

Turn to page 46

Hayley Resztan from our Greater Cambridge Shared Waste service helped to launch our latest recycling campaign. Find out more on page 22. Photo: davidjohnsonphotographic.co.uk

News in brief | Your Council | Communities | Planning
Recycling and waste | Housing | Transport
Climate and environment | Shop local | Competition

Remember to recycle in your blue bin when finished
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Hello

Welcome to the summer edition of South Cambs Magazine

It's wonderful to see trees and flowers in full bloom across the district, with plenty of exciting events and activities happening during the warmer months.

We've launched a vibrant new website which makes it much easier for you to get personalised, local information, at a glance, including bin collection dates for your street, planning applications nearby, District Councillor details and local events of interest – all by entering your postcode on the new homepage. Find out more on page 10.

If you or someone you care for could benefit from extra help to stay independent and connected at home, then I encourage you to find out more about local Mobile and Community Warden schemes. These wonderful schemes can combat loneliness, help with shopping, run errands like pick up prescriptions or go to the Post Office for you. Find out more on page 17.

It's been a busy year for our New Build team who've managed the completion and handover of an impressive number of new Council homes, ready for occupation on either an affordable rental or shared ownership basis across our towns and villages. All our new homes look to incorporate modern features and technologies to ensure they are energy efficient, such as air source heat pumps, electric vehicle chargers and solar panels. Find out more on page 29.

Next, get your diaries out and book in some fun activities this summer! There are village annual feasts, National Picnic Week in June, a Pollination Festival and a wide choice of fun places to visit across the district including Bury Lane Fun Barn, Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum as well as Cambridge Ice Arena. There's plenty more recommendations in our summer round-up on page 41.

I hope you find this magazine an enjoyable and insightful read, celebrating the people, places, and progress that make our communities so special.

Cllr Bridget Smith
Leader
South Cambridgeshire District Council

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Autumn 2025 issue

The next issue of South Cambs Magazine will be delivered between **Monday 25 August and Saturday 6 September.**

Contact Smart Distribution for delivery enquiries.

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SAM can help you instantly, or signpost you to the relevant team that can help you further. Just click on the speech bubble icon on our website and ask SAM a question.

www.scambs.gov.uk

You can also create a My South Cambs account, to see personalised information – such as your Council Tax payments or your Benefits account.

https://mysouthcambs.scambs.gov.uk

Or you can email us, phone us, write to us, visit our offices, or get in touch using our social media channels.

scdc@scambs.gov.uk
01954 713 000

Our phone line is available 8am to 5:30pm on weekdays - apart from Wednesdays when it stays open an extra hour until 6:30pm for you.

South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambs Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA

Our office opening hours are 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. If you come to the office, we'll try our very best to resolve your query there and then. If we can't, our advisors will book you a follow-up appointment when you will be able to speak to someone from our relevant service. Alternatively, you can book your own appointment at www.scambs.gov.uk/book-an-appointment

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Putting residents first

If you phone us we will:

- resolve your enquiry as quickly as possible.
- provide voicemail if the person you need is unavailable.
- answer your phone message within three working days.

If you write to us we will:

- reply to your letter or email within 10 working days.

If we write to you we will:

- write in plain language.
- arrange for translation, large type, braille or audio tapes upon request.

If we visit you we will:

- carry identification that you can check with a phone call to us.
- arrive at the time we say we will, or give you as much notice as possible if we have to change the time.

If we get it wrong we will:

- apologise if we have made a mistake or failed to meet our standards.
- acknowledge your written complaint within three working days.
- reply in full to your complaint within 10 working days.

Assisted Digital Service Support

We have set up Assisted Digital Service Support to ensure that nobody is excluded from completing an online application or e-form due to difficulty with digital skills or access to a computer. Eligible customers are offered telephone support or face to face support by one of our contact centre advisors. Your local library or Parish Council hub can also help.

To take advantage of this service, just call us on 01954 713 000.

News in brief

Come and visit us at Cambridge Pride 2025

On Saturday 14 June we will have a small team representing the Council at Cambridge Pride.

Following our success at last year's event, we'll be returning to Cambridge to share the benefits of a career within local government and highlighting some of the great work of our colleagues, such as zero carbon initiatives, community grants and sustainable housing.

As before, we plan to have temporary glitter tattoos, sweets and much more on offer throughout the day as part of our stall in the Community Hive tent.

For more information about Cambridge Pride, please visit www.cambridgepride.co.uk

Tiger on Demand: Serving South Cambridgeshire and beyond

Tiger on Demand is proving popular with residents across South Cambridgeshire.

Since the service launched last year, hundreds of journeys have already been made and over 3,500 rider profiles have been created on the Tiger on Demand app across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The service offers reliable, friendly transport that connects people to local towns, shops and onward travel. Journeys cost just £2 or £1 with the Tiger Pass, and concessions are accepted.

Book via the Tiger on Demand app, by calling 01480 595 440 or visiting www.tigerondemand.co.uk

Tiger on Demand picks up and drops off at virtual bus stops, with easy booking up to 48 hours in advance.

Community Forums

You are very welcome to join us at our next round of Community Forums. Community Forums are public meetings held in locations around Greater Cambridge that are experiencing major housing growth. It is an opportunity for communities to engage with key stakeholders on major developments. These vary in the format, from in person events to online sessions via Microsoft Teams.

For more information, please visit www.scambs.gov.uk/community-forums

Upcoming Forums

Northstowe: 4 June & 10 September

North West & West Cambridge: 12 June & 15 October*

Cambridge East: 18 June & 22 October

Bourn Airfield & Cambourne: 25 June & 12 November

Waterbeach: 2 July & 5 November

North East Cambridge: 9 July* & 19 November*

*Starred dates will take place online

Children's summer and October holiday netball camps

Join our popular netball camps for children in school years three to nine. They are for children of all abilities, led by qualified coaches. The camps offer a fantastic opportunity for kids to learn new and develop existing netball skills within game based activities inside a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment.

Summer camps

- Netball – 30 & 31 July at Impington Sports Centre

October half term camps

- Netball – 29 October at Impington Sports Centre

For full details and to book, go to our website at **www.scambs.gov.uk/sportscamps**

New nesting platform for 'majestic bird of prey'

Our Awarded Watercourses team have helped Milton Country Park Ranger Geoff Gilfillan install an Osprey nesting platform at the park. Geoff said: "We hope this nest will attract breeding Ospreys into Cambridgeshire for the first time since they originally went extinct in the UK in the early 1900s."

For seven weeks last autumn, Milton Country Park was home to an Osprey, interesting and exciting the park's visitors.

Geoff continued: "There are two large lakes at Milton Country Park - stocked with a range of fish species that form the diet of Ospreys. Across those seven weeks last year, 'our' Osprey was observed feeding on these fish regularly. Therefore, we know the lakes at Milton Country Park form a suitable habitat. Now we have installed a nesting platform fixed on top of a telegraph pole, we hope there is also now a suitable breeding area in the park for this majestic bird of prey."

Active & Healthy 4 Life

Exercise referral scheme

Discover a healthier you with our Active & Healthy 4 Life exercise referral scheme, tailored for individuals managing everyday health conditions. Qualified instructors create personalised gym-based exercise programmes, encouraging twice-weekly attendance and offering advice on complementary activities like walking, cycling and swimming. If you're 18 or older and aiming to manage conditions like high blood pressure and cholesterol, diabetes, osteoporosis, arthritis, asthma, or pre/post operative and mental health support this scheme could be for you.

Simply ask your health professional to complete our website's referral form, then contact your preferred sports centre to schedule an instructor appointment.

Join for £20 per month for four months. Full details, visit **www.scambs.gov.uk/active** or email **AandH4L@scambs.gov.uk**

Meanwhile, Bottisham Sports Centre are now taking new referrals and our cardiac rehab classes at Cambourne and Sawston, can be found at **www.scambs.gov.uk/cardiac**

Swim safely this summer

As the warm, sunny weather arrives in time for the school holidays and the temptation to jump into rivers and lakes to cool off increases, adults are being urged to remind young people of the dangers of swimming in open water.

Risks include cold water shock, hazards including trolleys or rubble below the surface that can trap or injure, undercurrents, and also young people overestimating their ability while with their friends.

It is safer to consider visiting one of the many public swimming pools or lidos located around the county, and there are ways to swim in open water more safely with organised groups. Visit **www.cambsfire.gov.uk/community-safety** for more guidance.

Four-day week update

Thank you to the hundreds of residents who took part in our four-day week consultation at the start of the year. The consultation allowed people to give us more feedback and share their views on our services during a trial of a four-day week. In total, more than 1,600 responses were received.

Those responses are now being analysed independently by a data analysis company, who will then produce a report on their findings. Information from the consultation will help our District Councillors decide on the next steps for the four-day week at the Council.

A report on consultation feedback, along with other data such as our performance information, will be published on our website so it can be discussed at our Full Council meeting on 17 July when it is expected a decision will be made.

Keep up to date at **www.scambs.gov.uk/four-day-working-week**

South Cambs Magazine

Enquiries should be directed to:

Editor: Tom Horn

Editorial: Megan Jerome, Jessica Lydon and Kath Sansom

South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA

communications@scambs.gov.uk

Design: Danielle Harrington
hello@dhdesignstudios.co.uk

Advertising: Charlotte Dyason at Media Shed Ltd

Ground Floor, Unit E1, East Court, Enterprise Road, South Park Business Village, Maidstone, ME15 6JF

charlotte@media-shed.co.uk

0207 183 1815

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Information correct at time of print.

How we spend your Council Tax

On this page, we outline how we're funded and what we spend money on.

We collect Council Tax on behalf of the Police, Fire Service, County Council, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and parish councils. Only around 7.5% of your annual Council Tax bill goes towards services which we provide – like emptying bins, determining planning applications and homelessness support.

Our waste and planning budgets include the funding to provide these services in Cambridge too as we share both services with the City Council. Council housing rent is not included in this page's figures; this is kept in a separate account and can only be spent on improvements to our Council homes and building new ones.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr John Williams, said: "You'll see our Council logo at the top of your Council Tax bill, but it's important to know that we only keep a small share of it. Most of the money is passed on to support other local government services and emergency services. For an average Band D property, just £175.40 a year goes directly to us - funding essential local services like bin collections, environmental health, housing support, benefits administration, and planning.

As central government funding continues to decline—with another reduction this year—we remain committed to finding new, innovative ways to generate income."

> "Our priority is to protect and maintain the frontline services that matter most to our residents."

Where our money comes from

We charge one of the lowest Council Taxes in the country to provide a range of services to residents and businesses. However, Council Tax is only one element of the funding we receive. Our budget for the year is made up of money from different sources. Here's how we get our funding of £86.48 million for the current financial year:

- **Grant from Government:** £0.48 million
- **New Homes Bonus:** £1.88 million
- **Income from investments:** £7.83 million
- **Council Tax:** £12.26 million
- **Business Rates:** £18.33 million
- **Grants, fees, charges and other:** £45.7 million

How to pay your Council Tax or Business Rates

If you do not already pay by Direct Debit, you can do so by signing up on our website where you can also arrange to receive your bills online.

Opting to get your bills online, and using our other online services, is more than just a convenient way to view bills 24 hours a day. You can also keep track of your payments, check for any changes to your accounts, and even provide us with updates as they happen.

What we spend our funding totalling £86.48 million on:

- **Waste and recycling:** £21.81 million
- **Housing benefits, Council Tax and Business rates:** £17.48 million
- **Other Corporate charges and Contributions:** £13.61 million
- **Planning services:** £13.05 million
- **Transformation, people and corporate services:** £6.04 million
- **Housing services:** £5.98 million
- **Climate and environment:** £3.36 million
- **Corporate management and elections:** £2.57 million
- **Finance services:** £1.46 million
- **Economic development and commercial investment:** £0.94 million
- **Legal services:** £0.18 million

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Introducing our new website

Our new website is now live - and we've introduced a new and improved look and feel to simplify accessing our online services.

You can now view personalised information in real-time including:

- **bin collection dates for your street**
- **planning applications nearby**
- **local events of interest**
- **your Local District Councillor**
- **street cleaning schedules**

Simply by entering your postcode on our homepage.

Other features include:

- **Streamlined navigation:** A clear and intuitive layout that makes it easier for you to find essential services.
- **Improved user experience:** All website content has been re-written so you can efficiently self-serve, reducing the need for in-person visits. We have also recently added SAM (Service Assistant Module), an AI chatbot who will answer your questions 24/7.
- **Reduced reading age:** As our content has been re-written, our reading age has dropped. This means that our content can be understood by an eleven-year-old as we have used plain English and broken down technical terms (where we can) throughout the website.
- **Accessibility features:** The site has been designed to meet web content accessibility guidelines, ensuring everyone can easily access content.
- **Improved carbon efficiency:** As part of our 'Being green to our core' Corporate Plan priority, the latest website boasts a higher carbon efficiency rating due to the improved design, the reduction of files and revised content.

Cllr Brian Milnes, Deputy Leader and Lead Cabinet Member for Environment said:

> **"We are very pleased to launch this new website, which marks an important milestone in our ongoing efforts to improve how we connect with and serve the residents of South Cambridgeshire.**
>
> **The way we now present local information that is personalised based on your postcode is a real game changer. It makes it so much easier to see what is happening on your doorstep - showing nearby planning applications, bin days, local events and more at a glance. Please do have a look and share your thoughts as we welcome regular feedback, so we can make as many improvements as possible."**

The launch of the website is part of a wider goal to enhance digital services and ensure that we remain responsive and accessible in an increasingly digital world. The website was developed with input from local residents who tested the layout to ensure our new website is easy to navigate.

www.scambs.gov.uk

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Update on local government reorganisation

Local government reorganisation involves significant changes to the structure, responsibilities, and boundaries of local councils in England.

What's changing?

A Government White Paper on English Devolution, published in December 2024, proposes reorganising 'two-tier' areas like Cambridgeshire, which currently have both district and county councils.

In Cambridgeshire, the County Council provides county-wide services such as education, road maintenance, and adult social care, while district councils like us handle local services like rubbish collection, planning, homelessness support, and environmental health. The Government wants to replace these two layers with a single tier.

Parish and town councils, which are smaller and have different local responsibilities, are not currently being asked to change.

Why the change?

The reorganisation is intended to bring services together, potentially leading to improvements and making it simpler for residents to know who to contact. Financial savings are also expected by reducing the number of councils.

Our Council Leader, Cllr Bridget Smith, said:

> **"We are approaching local government reorganisation with an open mind and a spirit of wanting the best for all our residents and for the local area as a whole.**
>
> **Not all of us would have chosen this path, but we accept that it is the path we are on and realise it is important that we collaborate to control our own destiny.**
>
> **We look forward to further discussions with other councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and with Government, residents, Members of Parliament and our partners including the police, NHS, fire service and town and parish councils."**

What's next?

Council leaders in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough continue to discuss proposals, though no single option has been agreed upon yet. The Government also allows councils to submit their own proposals, and all councils were asked to provide an initial response by 21 March 2025, with a final business plan due by November this year.

An Extraordinary Full Council meeting was held on 19 March to discuss our initial response, followed by a Cabinet meeting to approve it formally.

Our response letter, which was also agreed by five other councils in Cambridgeshire, outlined how further work is taking place to reach a shared understanding of how best to progress the proposals. The scenarios being considered are taking account of historic community identities, the interests of residents, economic geographies, and local demographic representation.

We will engage with residents and partners in shaping the business plan, which we need to submit to Government by November this year.

Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation for our frequently asked questions page about local government reorganisation.

Reviving the heart of Ickleton

The Ickleton community have come together to re-open a beloved pub that had been a feature of the village for hundreds of years.

The Ickleton Lion closed its doors on 1 July 2023, which marked the end of an era for the village of Ickleton. For over 300 years, it had been a vital social hub. Its closure left a noticeable gap, but the community was not ready to say goodbye.

Fortunately, the Parish Council had the foresight in 2014 to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value, and when the pub went up for sale, a six-month moratorium gave residents time to form a Community Benefit Society (CBS), raise funds, and purchase the pub in December 2024 with support from 415 local shareholders.

The CBS also secured grants from us - £22,258 from our Net Zero Villages fund to improve energy efficiency for the building plus £1,844 from our Community Chest Grant to help revamp the garden, focusing on biodiversity.

Community fundraising events brought people together to discuss their vision for the pub - sharing evening meals, coffee mornings and quizzes to raise another £12,000.

Lizzie, a member of the CBS, said: "The events brought people together and forged new friendships." With over 70 volunteers involved, the Ickleton Lion is being reborn - not

just as a pub, but as a vibrant community space, shaped by the people it serves.

Follow their renovation journey towards the pub re-opening this summer at:
www.ickletonlionpub.co.uk

Mobile Food Hub continues delivering food and hope

The Mobile Food Hub, co-ordinated by Hope Against Poverty Community Interest Company (CIC), visits six villages in South Cambridgeshire every week.

Fresh produce and essential items – some of which are free and everything else at below retail price – are brought directly to villages around the district to help residents with rising food prices. It also helps to tackle food waste, redistributing food from supermarkets and farms that would have ended up in the bin.

Last year, Hope CIC were awarded £15,000 towards the purchase of an electric vehicle through our Zero Carbon Community Grant. The van stocks food such as fruit and vegetables, bread, cereal, drinks, canned foods, pasta and rice. Household cleaning, hygiene, menstrual and baby/infant products can also be purchased subject to what is available on the day.

Anyone can access the Mobile Food Hub and no voucher or referral is needed.

Cllr Henry Batchelor, our Lead Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "The Mobile Food Hub not only provides affordable food and essentials to those who need it most, it also helps prevent fresh food going to waste. By shopping at the Mobile Food Hub you are saving perfectly good food being thrown away, as well as helping to fund Hope CIC's other projects."

The Mobile Food Hub currently makes weekly visits to the following locations: Duxford, Fulbourn, Linton, Northstowe, Orchard Park and Papworth. The current schedule and where to find the Mobile Food Hub can be viewed at **https://hopeagainst.org**

If any parish councils are interested in the Mobile Food Hub trialling a visit in their village, please email **office@hopeagainst.org**

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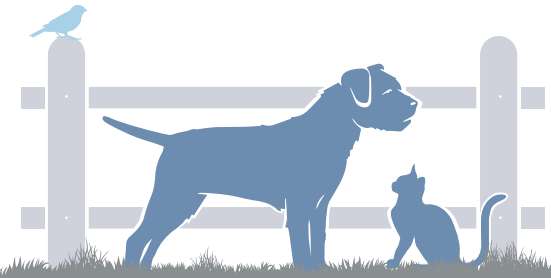

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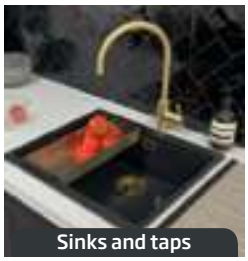
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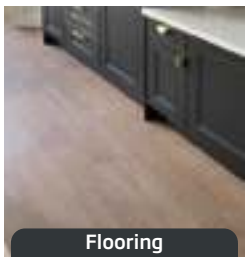
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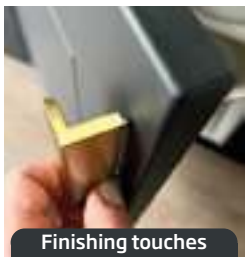
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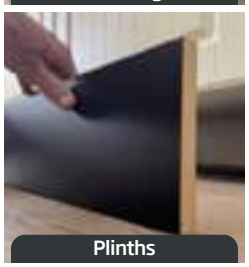
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Help the environment, connect with your community and save money

Join the library! You can sign up for free in any library, or join online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library-membership

100,000 library members across Cambridgeshire turn to the library for books, computers and WiFi, lifelong learning, social activities and more. Here's why they think libraries are so important.

Saving money

"It's expensive to do anything with children, but this is something we can do every week. We love rhymetime, we love taking books out - this saves us so much money."

"I have limited vision. The ability to borrow a good selection of audiobooks from the library greatly enhances my quality of life. I'm grateful for this free resource."

"A free space to work with access to WiFi."

"Being able to borrow e-audiobooks and e-magazines for free is amazing!"

"It is handy to know that I can access local and family history resources for free through my library."

Find out more about joining

Sharing resources and being green

"I love the sharing feeling I get from the libraries."

"I use the library computer on an almost daily visit and use the printer as well."

"It's nice to be able to borrow books instead of buying - better for the environment."

Community connection and wellbeing

"We love the warm and welcoming staff who make the library a wonderful place to visit."

"The library has been fantastic for me establishing myself in a new community, my life would be much less full without it."

"Somewhere my teenage children can visit, where I know they will be safe."

"You can sit and read, access technology resources, attend interesting events, learn new things - a vital place to study and relax."

"Especially with a young baby it has helped us to make friends with other mums."

Cambridgeshire County Council runs 33 libraries across the county – 10 are in South Cambridgeshire: Bar Hill, Cambourne, Comberton, Cottenham, Great Shelford, Histon, Linton, Papworth, Sawston and Willingham.

South Cambridgeshire also has five Community Managed Libraries (run by volunteers), in Bassingbourn, Fulbourn, Gamlingay, Melbourn and Waterbeach.

A Mobile Library visits villages around the district usually monthly, on the same day and time each month.

While Cambourne Library is closed for refurbishment, there are extended hours at Comberton and Papworth Libraries.

For locations and opening hours of your nearest library, and information on joining, you can scan the QR code on this page, call 0345 045 5225 or visit **www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraries**

Supporting independence

Mobile and Community Warden schemes form key parts of the communities that they serve.

Mobile and Community Warden Schemes (also known as Community Care Schemes) are vital in supporting older and vulnerable residents across South Cambridgeshire. These schemes help people stay independent in their own homes by providing regular contact, reducing isolation, and helping to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions.

An independent review has shown that for every £1 invested in these schemes, £4.92 of social value is generated. This includes reducing the demand on adult social care services, supporting quicker hospital discharges, and providing essential social interaction.

Information for families and potential clients

For families, these schemes offer peace of mind that their loved ones are supported by a trusted and reliable service. For a relatively low weekly charge, clients receive regular visits or calls, help with day-to-day matters, and companionship.

Examples of support provided*:

- Friendship and emotional support to combat loneliness and for improved mental wellbeing
- Helping with errands like picking up prescriptions or going to the Post Office
- Help with shopping, reading post, filling in forms and making phone calls
- Reminders to take medication

* services may vary slightly, depending on the scheme

Cllr Henry Batchelor, our Lead Cabinet Member for Communities, said:

> **"If you or someone you care for could benefit from extra help to stay independent and connected, I encourage you to find out more about our Mobile and Community Warden schemes. Details about the support they offer and areas they cover are available on our website."**

Funding and support to set up a new scheme

We play a key role in funding Mobile and Community Warden Schemes. In 2024-25, we allocated £100,000 to support both the ongoing operation of existing schemes and the development of new ones across the district.

We've also recently introduced a 10-year tapered grant model to help schemes become financially sustainable over time while maintaining high levels of support.

As part of this, £135,000 has been allocated for the financial year 2025–26, and included in this £12,000 has been ring fenced for the setup of new schemes and the expansion of existing schemes- which is particular benefit in our rural or underserved areas.

A dedicated toolkit is available to guide new groups through the setup process.

To find out more or apply for funding just visit www.scambs.gov.uk/mobile-community-warden-scheme

In 2024-25, we allocated £100,000 to support both the ongoing operation of existing schemes and the development of new ones across the district.

£135,000 has also been allocated for 2025-26.

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- **Long term and respite stay residence**
- **Beautiful landscaped gardens**
- **Delicious and varied meals, freshly prepared on site**
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Scan here

Young minds help shape future public art in Sawston

30 students from year five at Icknield Primary School, Sawston, recently took part in our latest Greater Cambridge Shared Planning youth engagement workshop.

The students got the chance to unleash their creativity and share their ideas for a proposed public art feature at Accelerator Park, Dales Manor Business Park, which is near their school. The aluminium panel artwork will sit in front of the new research and development and office building which opens this summer.

The workshops, co-designed by our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Youth Engagement Service team, Icknield Primary School and the developer Canmoor's design team, were also attended by representatives from Hale Architects, Canmoor developers, commissioned artist Charley Peters and Cllr Dr. Tumi Hawkins, our Lead Cabinet Member for Planning.

The workshop took place in two parts, starting with a tour of where the new building is being constructed. Charley Peters accompanied the pupils, speaking about how the nearby local features and the input of local residents will provide inspiration for her panels' artwork.

Photos: So-Motive

After this, the students attended a workshop to learn about the basics of placemaking and contributed their ideas for the proposed art. These design ideas will be incorporated in the artwork to ensure that they have a genuine input. Prizes were awarded to those who came up with the most creative designs.

As well as developing planning and design skills through walkabout site tours and fun workshops, the students also learned about the different career options within the built environment such as urban design, town planning, land and property development, construction and art.

Cllr Dr. Tumi Hawkins said:

> **"This initiative is a fantastic example of how meaningful youth engagement can shape the future of our communities. It not only meets the requirements of our Local Plan and the Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement but also aligns with the National Planning Policy Framework by giving young people a real voice in shaping their environment. Involving local students in the design of public art helps build a stronger connection between new developments and the communities they serve."**

Securing nature amongst new housing

When developers apply for planning permission, local councils like us work closely with them to ensure that new housing proposals include attractive green spaces, trees and planting beds, play areas and other features that benefit both communities and wildlife.

However, new research from the University of Sheffield and campaign group Wild Justice, shows that some housing developers are failing wildlife and communities on a "systemic and widespread scale" as they often do not deliver what is promised in their planning agreements.

Findings from the Lost Nature report

- Some housing developers install just half of the ecological features that they should
- 39% of the trees promised in planting plans within planning applications were missing or dead
- Nearly half of the native hedges that were supposed to be laid did not exist
- 59% of wildflower grasslands were found to be sown incorrectly or damaged

Read the full report at https://wildjustice.org.uk/general/lost-nature-report

Remedial works in Impington improved drainage and added planting to meet planning conditions. Once matured, tree and hedge planting will create a lush, inviting space for the community.

Holding developers accountable

Some housing developers working in South Cambridgeshire are also sadly not keeping their legally binding planning agreements and landscape and ecology commitments. Our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service has therefore created a new procedure for the monitoring and enforcement of delivery of landscapes within new build housing schemes, making a positive impact.

Achieving improvements

Our Landscape team have inspected over 50 sites since 2023 to check the tree and shrub planting, play areas, footpaths and other green spaces in new developments in South Cambridgeshire. Most visits require a written report to instruct the developer on the works needed to fix the problems on site.

The program of inspections and reporting has been very successful. Once developers receive our report, many start working with us to make improvements and meet their planning obligations. We are proactively working with developers on 35 sites to deliver sustainable spaces for people and nature.

We have now achieved positive outcomes for 16 sites, where developers have made significant progress and completed the remedial works highlighted by our team. A follow up visit after 12 months revealed these landscapes were still well-maintained.

On sites where developers have failed to respond or complete the remedial work, we have involved our Planning Compliance team. So far, nine problem sites are facing enforcement and legal action.

New planting in Hardwick has created a green, welcoming space for residents and wildlife—a place the community can be proud of.

Keeping your communities clean and free of litter

We use a zonal street cleaning system, which means we divide the district into five zones.

Each zone has a dedicated team of two operatives and two vans. They follow a regular schedule for street cleaning and for emptying community litter and dog waste bins in each zone.

You can find out when your village is next due a visit from our mechanical sweeper for street cleaning, and the day our team visits for emptying litter and dog waste bins on our website: **www.scambs.gov.uk/streets/street-care-and-cleaning**

Alternatively, the new localisation feature on our website provides you with the upcoming dates of the sweeper, and the day bins are emptied. Simply type your post code in on the home page.

Please note we only empty bins with official stickers.
If there is no sticker, please contact your Parish or Town Council or Development Management Company.
01954 713000

Identifying our litter and dog waste bins

Currently, all litter and dog waste bins that we are responsible for will display a sticker containing our phone number and the Council logo.

We are in the process of replacing these old stickers with an updated version that has a QR code. This QR code will take you straight to our website to report the bin if it is full and needs to be emptied, but also provides a phone number for those without a smartphone.

The sticker shows that we are responsible for emptying those bins. If a bin does not have this sticker, it is serviced by a different organisation.

For bins that we do not service, we recommend contacting your Parish Council to check who is responsible for emptying it.

If the bin is in a new housing development, it is likely that the management company for that development is responsible for emptying it.

Street cleaning zone map

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing, Cllr Natalie Warren-Green, says:

> **"The new sticker will make it easier for residents to identify bins we are responsible for and if there is an issue, they can report it by simply scanning the QR code. Be sure to check out the new localisation feature on our new website too. It's extremely helpful and informs you which bins are being emptied every week, and when the road sweeper is next due."**

You can also report an overflowing bin and request a new litter or dog waste bin via our website.

Thank you for helping us keep our communities clean!

Let's waste less

A new campaign featuring residents and staff showcases best practice for recycling and preventing waste.

When you are rinsing out a baked bean tin or breaking down cardboard boxes to fit in your blue bin, do you ever wonder whether your efforts are worthwhile or if anyone else in your community bothers?

We don't tend to have conversations with friends or neighbours about the fact that we rinse our jam jars, and we don't see what other people do or don't put in their bins, so it's easy to feel that we're acting alone.

We wanted to shine a light on these good recycling habits and on those that reduce waste too, so we asked residents to share what they do to waste less. As part of the campaign, residents volunteered to be featured on the side of nine of our new bin lorries to take their messages all around the district.

Our crews are also important ambassadors for recycling, so we were delighted that they also wanted to share their tips to help residents make the most of the service.

Rupert Shelbourne, who features on one of our lorries.

Photos: davidjohnsonphotographic.co.uk

Local resident Katherine Cui is supporting our latest recycling initiative.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing, Cllr Natalie Warren-Green said:

> **"We want to celebrate the collective actions that hundreds of thousands of residents make every day that help to reduce the amount of resources that end up in landfill. Whether it's avoiding waste by repairing or choosing pre-loved products, or by ensuring only clean and correct items are put in recycling bins, more and more of us are doing our bit. Let's waste less and let's do it together."**

Some of the residents who took part are Recycling Champions. These are volunteers who help communicate about recycling and reducing waste, for example by speaking to people at events. They get involved as much or as little as they like and receive a regular newsletter. Find out more about becoming a Recycling Champion at **www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-champions**

We'd love all residents to get on-board with the campaign. Tell us what you do to waste less, or make a pledge to take further action at **www.scambs.gov.uk/lets-waste-less** and you'll be entered into a prize draw to win one of three £50 supermarket or local entertainment vouchers.

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who took part, and to everyone who is doing their bit to waste less!

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Bin collection calendar

Bins must be put out by 6am on your collection day. Close lids fully. Please report missed collections between 3:30pm on collection day and 3:30pm the next working day.

For advice on how to leave out extra recycling for collection and other policies, or to report a missed bin, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/bins

NEVER BIN BATTERIES OR VAPES
They cause fires in our bin lorries, and must be recycled separately.

Vapes can be taken back to vape shops, supermarkets, petrol stations or to the large Household Recycling Centres for recycling.

Small household batteries can be put in a small plastic bag, tied shut and left on the top of your bin on collection day. Larger batteries such as e-bike batteries should be taken to Household Recycling Centres.

GROUP A

TUESDAY

Coton, Great and Little Chishill, Great Shelford, Heydon, Hinxton, Ickleton, Little Shelford, South Trumpington, Stapleford, Whittlesford

WEDNESDAY

Balsham, Carlton, Fen Ditton, Fulbourn, Great Wilbraham, Horningsea, Horseheath, Landbeach, Little Wilbraham, Six Mile Bottom, Stow-Cum-Quy, Teversham, Waterbeach, West Wickham, West Wratting, Weston Colville

THURSDAY

Abington Pigotts, Barton, Bassingbourn, Caldecote, Chittering, Comberton, Grantchester, Great Eversden, Guilden Morden, Hardwick, Harlton, Haslingfield, Kingston, Litlington, Little Eversden, Madingley, Milton, Odsey, Orchard Park, Orwell, Shingay-Cum- Wendy, Steeple Morden, Toft, Whaddon, Wimpole

FRIDAY

Boxworth, Childerley, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Fen Drayton, Graveley, Knapwell, Longstanton, Northstowe, Papworth Everard, Papworth St. Agnes, Swavesey

	JUNE				JULY					AUGUST					SEPTEMBER				
TUE	03	10	17	24	01	08	15	22	29		05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30
WED	04	11	18	25	02	09	16	23	30		06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	
THU	05	12	19	26	03	10	17	24	31		07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	
FRI	06	13	20	27	04	11	18	25		01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	

Blue and green bin Black bin only

GROUP B

TUESDAY

Barrington, Duxford, Fowlmere, Foxton, Harston, Hauxton, Melbourn, Meldreth, Newton, Shepreth, Thriplow

WEDNESDAY

Babraham, Bartlow, Castle Camps, Great Abington, Hildersham, Horseheath (Cardinal's Green), Linton, Little Abington, Pampisford, Sawston, Shudy Camps

THURSDAY

Arrington, Bar Hill, Bourn, Cambourne, Caxton, Croydon, Dry Drayton, Gamlingay, Girton, Hatley, Little Gransden, Lolworth, Longstowe, Tadlow

FRIDAY

Cottenham, Histon, Impington, Oakington & Westwick, Over, Rampton, Willingham

	JUNE				JULY					AUGUST					SEPTEMBER				
TUE	03	10	17	24	01	08	15	22	29		05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30
WED	04	11	18	25	02	09	16	23	30		06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	
THU	05	12	19	26	03	10	17	24	31		07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	
FRI	06	13	20	27	04	11	18	25		01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	

What can you **recycle** through your blue bin?

Yes

Remember to rinse food containers

✓Clean ✓Empty ✓Don't bag it

Cardboard

Paper & magazines

Tins, cans & foil

Aerosol cans

Shredded paper *(in envelope or clear sack)*

Glass bottles & jars

Cartons

Plastic pots, tubs, trays & empty bags

Plastic bottles

Please put used batteries in a clear plastic bag and NOT in your bin.
Place the bag on top of any of your wheelie bins. Batteries must not be put inside the bin. Small portable household batteries can be put in the clear bag - e.g. AA, AAA, 6v, 9v, D, C, button. Do not include mobile phone or laptop batteries. Instead take these to a Household Recycling Centre.

No

- ✗ Black bin bags or rubbish
- ✗ Nappies, tissues, kitchen paper, wipes & sanitary waste
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Glasses, flat glass or glass dishes
- ✗ Mirrors, Pyrex, plates/ crockery

The following can be recycled elsewhere – check our website.

- ✗ Clothing and textiles
- ✗ Food, liquid or garden waste
- ✗ Wood, plasterboard & DIY waste
- ✗ Furniture or electricals
- ✗ Scrap metal e.g. pans
- ✗ Hard plastics e.g. bucket
- ✗ Crisp packets

What can you **compost** through your green bin?

Yes

Untreated wood and sawdust

Garden waste

Cooked/uncooked food waste (including meat, fish and dairy)

Used paper tissues and kitchen paper

No

- ✗ Plastic & plastic bags
- ✗ Compostable bags e.g. Biobags
- ✗ Nappies, wipes and sanitary waste
- ✗ Soil or stones
- ✗ Painted or treated wood
- ✗ Cat or dog waste
- ✗ Plant pots and seedling trays
- ✗ Loose ash (wood ash CAN go in the green bin, but only if enclosed in paper bags)

What **rubbish** can go in your black bin?

Yes

Please try to reduce rubbish that cannot be recycled or composted

General rubbish
including nappies, wipes, sanitary waste, polystyrene, broken crockery or glassware (wrapped).

No

- ✗ Rubble/bricks
- ✗ Soil
- ✗ Very heavy items
- ✗ Electrical items
- ✗ Batteries
- ✗ Loose ash or vacuum dust. Please bag.

Not sure if it can be recycled? Check the 'What goes in which bin?' page on our website, via www.scambs.gov.uk/bins for hundreds more items.

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Extra Cambs HIA support to improve homes

An updated and improved Adaptations and Repairs Policy will help meet the needs of more disabled people.

We are delighted to share that our partners Cambs Home Improvement Agency (Cambs HIA) will now be able to meet the needs of more people with disabilites as a result of an updated and improved Adaptations and Repairs Policy which was approved by our Cabinet in March.

Cambs HIA is a strategic partnership which has been operating across Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire for 13 years. Their primary role is to work collaboratively with Occupational Therapists to design and support adaptations that enable people with long term health conditions to safely and, as independently as possible, remain in their own home.

Under our new policy, the main changes are:

- Increasing the amount available to an individual as a top up grant or loan from £15,000 to £30,000. The maximum available under a Disabled Facility Grant is £30,000, so for those with complex needs, this will increase the amount available to meet a person's assessed needs to a maximum of £60,000.
- Increasing the amount available for repairs grants or loans to low-income homeowners. This will increase from £10,000 to £15,000 enabling residents, with the support of Cambs HIA, to be able to make their homes more energy efficient and improve any major disrepair. For homes which are assessed as failing the Housing health and safety rating system, this sum will increase to up to £25,000.
- Supporting those who need to self-fund adaptations to their homes in a comparable way to those eligible for the grants in recognition of the needs that people face irrespective of tenure.

These improvements have been made possible due to a Government increase in the Disabled Facility Grant budgets. Separately, we also fund a further £875,000 for adaptations for Council tenants and whilst all funding is subject to available budget, we hope greater flexibility will also help reduce delays.

Cambs HIA gave us an example of a young disabled man who required a raft of adaptations including a level access shower, hoists, ramps and wash dry toilets to enable him to remain living at home with his parents rather than in residential care. The Agency reported that these types of adaptations were being delayed because the maximum grant of £30,000 was not enough to cover the equipment and construction costs and that those on low incomes were unable to afford to pay the difference. Adaptations can be life changing for families and mean that hospital and social care budgets are saved for where no alternative exists.

To apply for funding, call 01954 713330 or email **hia@cambshia.org** - or to find out more, visit **www.cambshia.org**

Adding bird and bat boxes to Council homes

As part of our ongoing commitment to improve sustainability and preserve wildlife habitats, we launched a project to install bird and bat boxes on our Council homes.

Initially these will be installed on homes that are undergoing re-roofing works, and are only being installed with the tenant's permission, but will be extending this to other homes too so that any tenant who requests it may be added to the project, where appropriate.

We secured £5,000 in funding through our Green to Our Core internal fund, which was set up to encourage Council colleagues to develop projects that reduce carbon emissions or enhance biodiversity - both within Council offices and across the wider district. The project began in late 2024, and we aim to continue it throughout 2025.

The hope is that these bird and bat boxes will encourage wildlife and replace nesting habitats that are being lost in some areas due to modern building methods. This is part of our vision to double nature in South Cambridgeshire by 2050 and, in so doing, enable wildlife and people to thrive.

Building more Council homes

The 2024/25 year was an incredibly productive and exciting time for our New Build Council housing team. Here's a look at some of our key achievements and ongoing work:

Key highlights:

- **85 new homes delivered**
  We successfully delivered and handed over 85 new Council homes for affordable rent or shared ownership. These homes are now ready for residents across various towns and villages throughout the district.
- **Over 100 homes in progress**
  Construction is well underway on more than 100 new Council homes, all scheduled for completion within the next 12 to 15 months.
- **Contracts signed for 71 more homes**
  We've signed contracts to deliver an additional 71 new Council homes, ensuring a steady pipeline of high-quality housing.
- **Planning for the future: 270 more homes**
  We've submitted bids and started contract negotiations with multiple developers to bring forward 270 more new Council homes in the coming years.

Building for a greener future

All our new homes are designed with energy efficiency in mind. Wherever possible, we are incorporating modern, sustainable features such as:

- Air source heat pumps
- Electric vehicle charging points
- Photovoltaic (solar) panels

These technologies help lower energy bills for residents and support our commitment to a greener future.

Find your new home

- **Affordable rent homes**
  Our affordable rental properties can be viewed on the Homelink website: www.home-link.org.uk
- **Shared ownership homes**
  Our shared ownership new build homes are all advertised through William H Brown estate agents:
  www.williamhbrown.co.uk
  SCDC@williamhbrown.co.uk

Cllr John Batchelor, Our Lead Cabinet Member for Housing, said:

> **"Providing high-quality, energy-efficient homes for our residents is at the heart of what we do. These new developments help meet the need for affordable housing and also set a strong example for sustainable living."**

To explore current and upcoming developments, visit our website: www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/new-build-council-homes

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Council tenants elect new representatives

The Regulator of Social Housing has created a new system for looking at how well social housing landlords in England are doing at providing good quality homes and services.

In 2020, the Government published the charter for social housing residents: the Social Housing White Paper, which sets out ways to improve conditions for people living in social housing. One of the aims of the White Paper is to have tenants' voices heard by their landlord; through regular meetings, scrutiny panels or being on its board.

Here at South Cambridgeshire District Council, we have a Housing Engagement Board that comprises six tenant representatives, one residential leaseholder, three councillors and our Head of Housing. The board was set up in 2021 with elected tenants serving a four-year term. We have recently held elections to appoint a new board of tenant and residential leaseholder representatives for the next four years.

Our new tenant board members are:

- **North tenant representatives** Margaret Wilson & Jim Watson
- **East tenant representatives** Amy Stock & Vivienne Till
- **West tenant representatives** Laura Nelson & Michael Luffman
- **Residential leaseholder representative** Patti Hall

The role of the Housing Engagement Board is to discuss, scrutinise, and recommend how their housing service is managed, and how well it performs for tenants and residential leaseholders. They help us focus on tenants' priorities, make sure that their rent and service charges are being well spent, Council homes are maintained to a high standard, and neighbourhoods are safe and a nice place to live.

Cllr John Batchelor Lead Cabinet Member for Housing and Chair of the board, says:

> "It's encouraging to see a growing interest from tenants in getting involved to enhance their housing service. This year, more tenants stood for election, and we're excited to collaborate with the newly elected representatives in the years ahead."

As well as the Housing Engagement Board, we have tenant panels that any Council tenant can be involved with. Our Policy Review panel help to review our housing policies and procedures. We have a Tenant Satisfaction Measures and Performance Review panel that looks at the performance of our housing service and ways we can make improvements. There is also a Contract Review panel that monitors our contracts to make sure they are performing as they should as well as participating in the awarding of new contracts. Estate inspections are another way tenants can get involved by going out to estates in our villages along with other tenant inspectors and our housing officers to look at and report any issues in the area.

If you are a council tenant and want to get involved, email us at **resident.involvement@scambs.gov.uk**

Councillors visit new affordable Council homes under construction at Northstowe.

Preventing homelessness and providing housing advice

During the 2023/24 financial year, on average we prevented 79 cases of homelessness each quarter. This has increased during the following 12 months, with an average of 93 cases per quarter.

If you are at risk of becoming homeless or are worried about your housing situation, it is important to act as soon as possible. We want to be able to help you to resolve any risk you feel you may have in relation to your housing.

- **Are you worried about your tenancy or being able to afford your rent?**
- **Are you living with family or friends but worried they may ask you to leave?**
- **Are you feeling at risk from someone that you live with?**
- **Do you need help to resolve problems so you can stay in your current home or assistance to find somewhere else to live?**

If you answered yes to any of these questions, or you are worried about losing your home for any other reason, please get in touch.

The sooner you contact us, the sooner we can help and the more chance we can help you to prevent homelessness and give you advice on the options available to you.

We are also proud that we have received accreditation from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance and can provide a trauma informed response to survivors of domestic abuse.

Income Maximisation Service

As well as housing advice, we have colleagues who can help to maximise your income, give you budgeting advice, assess affordability and signpost or refer you to specialist services.

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- **Do you need advice on what financial help you may be entitled to?**

We offer personalised support, tailored to meet the needs of the individual. We can provide advice on:

- **Budgeting**
- **Reducing household expenses**
- **Benefit entitlement**
- **Preventing homelessness due to arrears**

We have also developed a training package for new tenants. This will cover your responsibilities as a tenant along with details of the costs you are likely to have and where to seek help if you need it.

Find out more about our personalised support

If you would like to arrange an appointment with our Income Maximisation Service or if you are worried about losing your home, please contact the Housing Advice service:

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Continuing to support Ukrainians in South Cambridgeshire

The Homes for Ukraine scheme began in March 2022. Since then, South Cambridgeshire has welcomed 961 Ukrainians, more than any other District Council area.

The kindness of people hosting Ukrainians in their homes has made the scheme a great success. We are incredibly thankful for their ongoing support. Local community groups also played a huge part in providing a warm welcome, and helping Ukrainians feel a part of the local community.

We have provided a range of support for Ukrainians to help them integrate into the local community, including English lessons, employment support, tenancy workshops, and assistance with claiming benefits.

Our Homes for Ukraine Moving On team have enabled the majority of our refugees to seek their own independent accommodation, while others have safely returned to Ukraine.

We wanted to share some stories from Ukrainians who have settled into the district with our support.

> **"I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the support you have provided to Ukrainians since 2022.**
>
> **It has been truly reassuring to know that we have the backing of our local Council at all levels - in education and children's support, access to information, community events, employment support, or, most importantly, assistance in finding homes.**
>
> **The team's proactive approach and guidance allowed us to relocate within the same village, which was essential for our family's stability and mental well-being. Thanks to their efforts, we did not have to change schools, and the transition went smoothly.**
>
> **– Olena Biletska"**

Drawing by a primary school pupil living with a host family in South Cambridgeshire

"When I needed to move away from my sponsors, finding accommodation in England proved to be a real challenge. High prices, and competition for rent made the process difficult. It was especially difficult to find options without a large deposit and with flexible terms for newcomers. Luckily, I had the support of the Council's Homes For Ukraine team. Thanks to their help, I received the necessary information, advice and real support in obtaining housing, furniture and household appliances. I am very grateful for this support - without it, my journey to my new home would have been much more difficult"

– Natalia Kiriyenko

Homes for Ukraine visa's were initially for three years, or 18 months if they applied after 19th February 2024. As Ukrainians transition to the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme, which is an 18-month visa extension, we want to remind them we are here to support them every step of the way. Visit our Ukraine Permission Extension scheme webpage for more information: **www.scambs.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine**

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Greater Cambridge Greenways pave the way forward

The Greater Cambridge Partnership's (GCP) greenways are providing a greener, healthier way to get around South Cambridgeshire.

From school runs to weekend rides, walking, wheeling and cycling around South Cambridgeshire is about to get safer, and more accessible.

The GCP's greenways are delivering major improvements to local walking, wheeling and cycling routes – connecting villages to each other and to Cambridge, whilst enabling healthier, happier journeys.

Here's what's coming up this summer and what it means for your day-to-day travel.

Adams Road: A first for England

One of the biggest changes for South Cambridgeshire cyclists heading into Cambridge is set to begin with construction on Adams Road, part of the Comberton Greenway. Already used by over 3,000 cyclists daily, Adams Road will become England's first Cycle Street, giving people on bikes priority over cars and making the route safer for all. Rain gardens will be planted along the roadside to help with drainage and enhance the streetscape, while pedestrians will benefit from wider pavements.

"Projects like the new cycle street on Adams Road are all about making everyday journeys easier and safer for people," says Thomas Fitzpatrick, Head of Programme at GCP.

> "Whether it's cycling into the city, walking to school, or getting around your village, these changes are designed to fit into daily life and give people more choice in how they travel."

Barton: Safer routes for families

In Barton, construction is underway to improve road safety for all users – especially for families walking to Barton Primary School. Upgrades include a new 20 mile an hour speed limit; raised crossings and speed bumps and a zebra crossing on New Road, helping children feel more confident getting to school. Later this summer, work will begin on widening the Barton Road path between Cambridge and Haggis Farm roundabout.

Shepreth, Stapleford and Great Shelford: Better village links

Following improvements from Meldreth Station to Station Road, the focus is now going to be on preparing the Shepreth spur of the Melbourn Greenway for construction, where work will create safer village travel through traffic calming measures.

Later this year, the Sawston Greenway moves ahead with improvements through Stapleford and Great Shelford, offering better paths for walking, cycling and wheeling, and stronger links to Cambridge and communities in neighbouring villages.

Whether you're looking to get more active or make the most of being outside this summer, the greenways are designed to get you where you need to go, safely and comfortably.

Find out more at www.greatercambridge.org.uk

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Discover events and nature reserves this summer!

With summer arriving, there's no better time to get outside and see some of the fantastic nature on our doorstep in South Cambridgeshire.

Here's a spotlight on some of the events and nature reserves you can enjoy.

Cambridge Nature Festival

The Cambridge Nature Festival is back for 2025! Running from 24 May to 29 June with over 130 nature-based events in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, there is something for everyone.

The Cambridge Nature Festival is a celebration of nature on our doorstep, and of the people and organisations that work tirelessly for the natural world.

Previous year's events have included bioblitzes, nature boat trips, bushcraft, and cooking demonstrations.

For a full list of events and more details, visit **www.cambridgenaturenetwork.org/events**

Milton Country Park

Set in 95 acres of woodland, grassland and lakes north of Cambridge, the park is home to rare species such as Water Voles and turtle doves, and a wide variety of water birds including swans, geese and ducks.

Last autumn the park was visited by an Osprey, a rare fish-eating hawk, which the park hopes will return; read more in our 'News in Brief' article on page five.

Find out more at **www.miltoncountrypark.org**

Waresley and Gransden Woods

Waresley and Gransden Woods are two ancient oak-ash woods, a type of woodland only found in lowlands like South Cambridgeshire.

Many breeding birds such as Redwings and Long-tailed Tits live in the woodlands. The woods are bursting with flowers like bluebells, violets and primroses. These attract an array of insets; over 500 species of moth and butterfly have been recorded at the woods!

Find out more at **www.wildlifebcn.org/waresley**

Stow cum Quy Fen

Stow cum Quy Fen is a 73-acre site of special scientific interest, dotted with a range of ponds that are home to uncommon water plants, dragonflies, water beetles and water voles. The fen is common land and is crossed by several footpaths, which reach the fen from Horningsea, Stow cum Quy, Lode and Anglesey Abbey.

Find out more at **www.quyfen.uk**

RSPB Folwmere

RSPB Fowlmere is a wildlife haven, with a mix of fen, scrub and reedbed, which can be seen from accessible boardwalks. Otters and water voles are regularly sighted, and it is a particularly good place to spot the dazzling kingfisher. Fowlmere also hosts part of the River Shep, which is a chalk stream, one of the UK's rarest habitats.

Find out more at **www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fowlmere**

Explore your South Cambs this summer

Summer is just around the corner, and there's plenty to do in South Cambridgeshire to keep everyone entertained.

Some of our villages will be holding their annual feasts, including Balsham, Girton and Great Shelford, where you'll find family-friendly fun full of food and drink, music and merriment.

National Picnic Week, Saturday 14 until Saturday 21 June, is a great opportunity to explore our open spaces like Milton Country Park, Duxford's Brewery Field or Wandlebury. Pop along to a farm shop, deli or bakery and treat yourself to some lovely local produce.

And if you enjoy the great outdoors and care about the environment, Oakington's Pollination Festival on Saturday 21 June is a celebration of nature, with stalls highlighting local produce, seasonal fruit, traditional crafts, plant-based and nature-themed goods.

The summer holidays can seem to stretch out forever when you've got the kids at home for six weeks. But help is at hand with a wide choice of fun places to go to across the district including Bury Lane Fun Barn, Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum and Cambridge Ice Arena.

For the more adventurous, there's Wildly Curious in Bourn, The Playground outdoor assault course in Waterbeach, Apocalypse Paintball in Bassingbourn or CryptX Escape Rooms in Knapwell.

Budding David Attenboroughs or Michaela Strachans might prefer a day at Shepreth Wildlife Park or Linton Zoo.

The Library Presents is a vibrant programme of activities and events including music, theatre, art, dance and digital arts.

While the youngsters are (hopefully) tiring themselves out, take some time for yourself. Burn off some steam – and calories – at Inspired Health and Fitness Club in Waterbeach or Outtrain Gym, Knapwell, relax at Paus in Bourn or Chill at the Yard in Knapwell, or say "namaste" to Yoga with Ashley at Manor Farm in Bourn or Inspirit Studio in Tadlow.

Prefer to be pampered? Try the Riverside Spa at Quy Mill, Brooke's Beauty & Spa in Caldecote or The Retreat at Burwash Manor.

Free listing on visitsouthcambs.co.uk

Businesses and event organisers can take advantage of free listings on our site – the QR code at the bottom of the page will take you to our easy to fill in forms.

Remember, www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk is your guide to help plan the best days out in South Cambridgeshire.

Are friends and family visiting from outside the district? South Cambs has a great choice of hotels, B&Bs, self-catering accommodation, campsites and glamping sites – even moorings. To discover the range of rooms on offer go to www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk/stay/

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Spotlight on Willingham

Active and vibrant, Willingham has become a popular destination in South Cambridgeshire thanks to thriving local businesses and eclectic destination activities.

There is an excellent blend of character, convenience and the village continues to attract people from near and far.

Certainly not short of places to dine, Willingham is home to a number of options. The Porterhouse Pub is a venue suitable for all occasions whether it be social drinks, a Sunday roast or evening quiz nights. Boasting a seasonal menu and unique pub garden tipi, The Porterhouse has summer covered.

The local community can also look forward to the reopening of The Duke of Wellington pub, now under new independent ownership, which only adds to the variety of choice in the village.

On the High Street and open seven days a week, Lot 25 Café prides itself on sourcing local products and creating quality homemade food in luxurious surroundings and is further enriched by Willingham Auctions and Cambridge Home & Garden next door. This charming courtyard is a visitor experience wrapped in one, from tasty food through to monthly auction dates, and the perusal of outdoor furniture.

Lastly, for a cosy coffee spot, Creative Grounds Café allows visitors to choose a craft from their unique art menu to enjoy right at their table. From painting to bracelet making, it's a relaxing and creative experience for all.

Willingham has accommodation options for those escaping the bustle of Cambridge itself. Hempsall Farm Vegan Glamping is a distinctive option for countryside lovers wanting to experience safari tents and a bus bar – yes, a bar in a bus. On that theme, motorhome and RV enthusiasts can enjoy Roseberry Tourist Park for similar green rural expanses open all year round.

Back in the village, Orchard Cottage B&B offers traditional overnight stays in quaint century-old style surroundings.

Highgate Farm on Over Road is home to several vital and popular services for residents and nearby locals to benefit from. Highgate Veterinary Clinic go above and beyond for our four-legged friends, while Willingham Gym & Wellness is one of the village's local fitness centres.

Sew & Sew are experts in clothing alternations and Highgate Butchers are a knowledgeable and popular choice for high-quality meats. This is to name just a few excellent amenities Highgate Farm offers – see for yourself!

Cllr Peter McDonald, our Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said:

> **"Willingham is a vibrant village where tradition meets community spirit. From delicious local food and cosy B&Bs to welcoming pubs, modern gyms, and many other attractions, there's something here for everyone. These local gems support our economy and create a great experience for residents and visitors alike."**

If you would like to see your village put under the spotlight, please email OpenForBusiness@scambs.gov.uk and let us know.

Cheers to our microbreweries and drinks manufacturers

Pale or pils, sour or stout, gin or juice – South Cambridgeshire is home to exceptional microbreweries and drinks manufacturers.

These local gems, where passion meets craftmanship, offer refreshing beverages worth raising a toast to this summer.

Rapidly becoming a household name, BrewBoard has a splendid brewery in Harston producing innovative flavour-filled craft beers. They offer brewery tours, tasting experiences, and a delightful taproom where local street vendors offer delicious food to pair with their brews – a great example of businesses working together.

Milton Brewery in Waterbeach is a traditional English ale brewery with time-honoured techniques creating award-winning drinks. With a deep knowledge of all things malt and hops related, they champion strong and complex satisfying bitters. You can sample their ales at The Rose & Crown in Histon.

Pastore Brewing, also in Waterbeach, are experts in heavily fruited sours as well as aged wild ales. Founded in 2019, Pastore has an eclectic range of vegan and lactose-free tipples which can be sampled on site during open days. Find dates for these online, as well as beer festivals, brewery tours and local food vendor team-ups that create lively community events.

Linton's Wylde Sky focus on good beer as well as good times. The taproom offers a wonderful space for quiz nights and live music with local food vendors creating highly entertaining social evenings. The beer is crisp, refreshing and available in gift sets – perfect for Father's Day!

In Dry Drayton, Lord Conrad's commitment to sustainable brewing processes is shown through their Gold Award from Cambridge Sustainable Food. Using fresh local ingredients to produce popular beer and cider demonstrates their eco-friendly intent, making Lord Conrad's a superb option to look out for during this summer's festivals. Another festival regular is Moonshine Brewery based in Fulbourn. Their award-winning beer can be found in local pubs such as the Hole in the Wall in Little Wilbraham, and Willingham's The Bank Micropub.

Cambridge Distillery in picturesque Grantchester creates top quality, skilfully blended gins and botanicals, crafted with care and precision. Internationally recognised, drinks are created for both flavour and refreshment. Visit the onsite shop, join a tasting masterclass or learn how to make bespoke gin.

For alcohol-free alternatives, Cambridge Juice Company is a family-run business based in Meldreth specialising in sustainable local drinks and snacks. The apples for their juice is grown, picked, pressed and bottled less than 800 yards from their warehouse.

Cllr Peter McDonald, our Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said:

> **"Beer Day Britain and Father's Day both fall on Sunday 15 June this year, so why not take your dad, uncle, or grandpa to one of these local microbreweries for a pint (or anyone else that enjoys a beer!) Remember to drink responsibly when supporting our local drinks manufacturers."**

A three-month golf membership at Girton Golf Club

Girton Golf Club are offering a free three-month golf membership to a lucky reader, worth £400.

This prize would be ideal for somebody wanting to try out their local club and is suitable for anyone.

The Golf Club is currently undergoing some refurbishment work – due to be completed around the end of May - which will enhance the golfing experience.

The membership includes:

- CAGU and England Golf Affiliation Fees.
- Full tee time access from 10:30am.
- Eligibility to play in Medals, Stablefords and Nine Hole Qualifiers.
- Eligibility to play in Charity Day and Invitation Day providing you have a handicap.
- 10% discount on food and drink at the Bar.
- Access to BRS booking system 14 days in advance.

Girton Golf Club also have a resident PGA professional offering those all-important golfing tips, and more in-depth lessons for those keen to improve. They also have group lessons for women weekly, and junior coaching sessions as well.

To enter

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Our Awarded Watercourses team helped install a nesting platform at Milton Country Park. What bird is the platform designed for?

a) Kite

b) Osprey

c) Buzzard

You can enter the competition online. www.scambs.gov.uk

Click 'Apply' and then 'Reader's competition'.

Don't have Internet access?
You can enter by post. Send your name, address and telephone number, along with your answer to the question, to:

South Cambs Magazine Competition,
South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA

Closing date for entries is 5pm on Friday 27 June.

The terms and conditions for our Reader Competition are available at www.scambs.gov.uk/t-c or can be requested by calling us.

The winner will be notified in July and announced in the autumn issue of South Cambs Magazine.

Winner's spotlight

The winner of our previous competition was Ralf Huebner from Sawston. Ralf won a bottomless dinner with drinks at Scott's All Day for himself and three others. Ralf said: "I am very excited about winning the magazine's competition. This will be wonderful for the whole family; the kids are looking forward to a bottomless dinner with pizza!"

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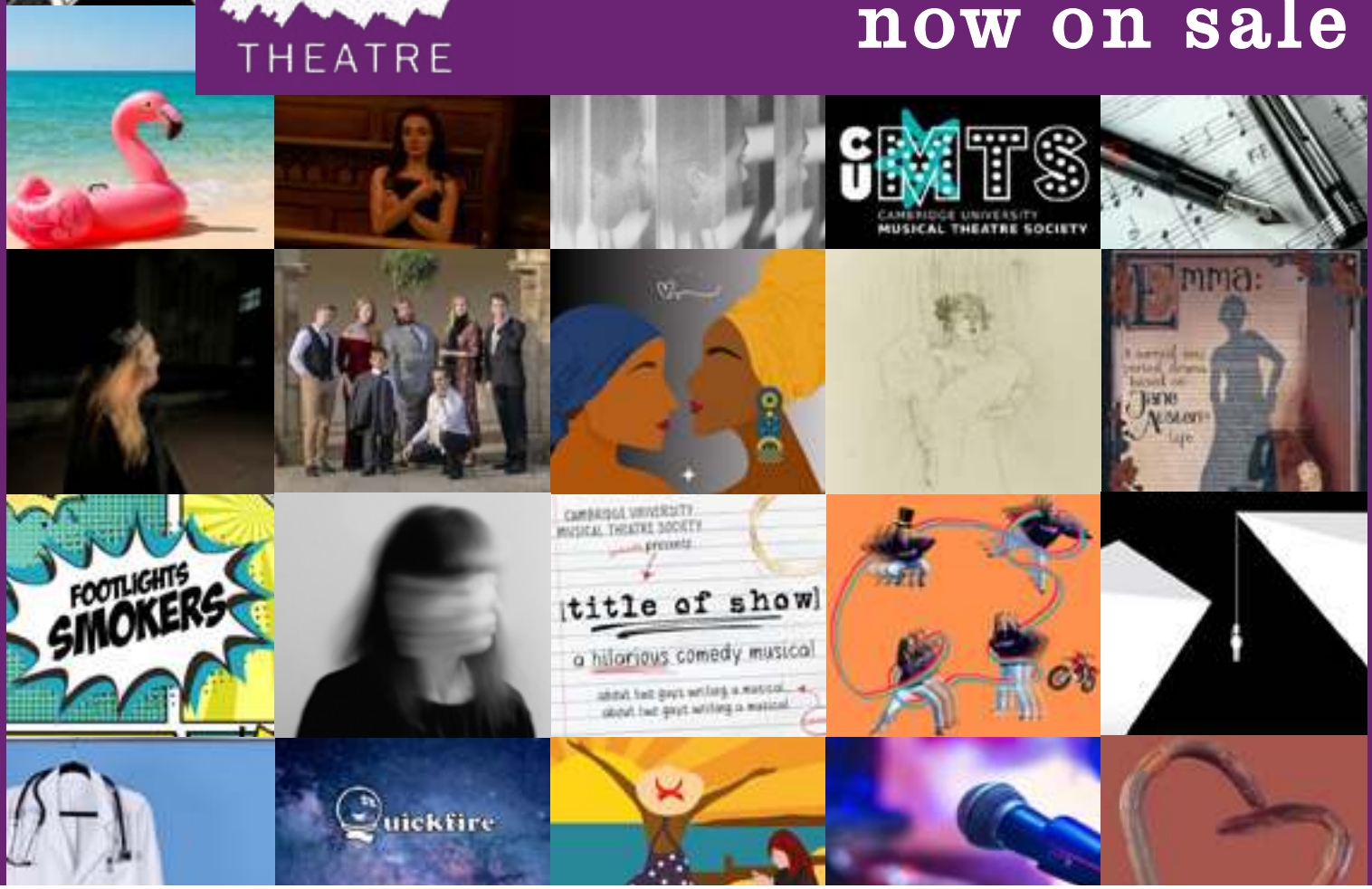

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